

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle ~~Vehicle~~ having a front, ~~and~~ a rear and a longitudinal axis, and comprising:

- a vehicle structure having a top opening and including a passenger compartment  
provided with seats near the rear of the a passenger compartment (57) provided with seats (55)  
near the rear of the passenger compartment, and a storage area (53) located behind said seats,

- a retractable roof adapted for closing said upper opening, the a-vehicle structure (13)  
locally defining a roof panel (14) with a closeable opening (10) and a retractable roof (12), this  
roof comprising at least two rigid parts (1, 3, 5, 9) free to move with respect to said structure,  
said at least two rigid parts comprising namely a first front part and a second rear part  
respectively,

- first displacement means (7, 37, 39) to which said first and second parts of the roof parts  
are connected at least during part of a their-movement therefore between an extended position,  
reached by forward displacement, in which said first and second these-parts are substantially in  
line one behind the other and cover the passenger compartment-(57), and a folded position  
reached by a displacement towards the rear of the vehicle in which said first and second parts are  
offset from each other and are retracted behind the seats, at least one of said at least two rigid  
parts some of these roof parts (1, 3, 5) then being arranged in a first storage position,

- second displacement elements with which is engaged at least said rigid roof part  
arranged in the first storage position, for a possible displacement thereof towards a second  
storage position different from the first position,

- wherein the retractable roof further comprises a rear roof element including a rear  
window extending transverse the longitudinal axis of the vehicle, said rear roof element being

free to move with respect to the vehicle structure, and the first and second parts of the roof being arranged in front of said rear roof element, when the roof is closed.

~~characterized in that it also comprises second displacement elements (51, 80) into which at least said roof parts (1, 3, 5) engage when they are arranged in their said first storage position, to displace these roof parts if necessary towards a second storage position different from the first position.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The vehicle ~~Vehicle according to~~ of claim 1, wherein characterized in that the second displacement means (51, 80) are installed free to move with respect to the vehicle structure (13) and with respect to the first displacement means (7, 37, 39), each of said ~~the~~ roof part ~~parts~~ (1, 3, 5) arranged in the first storage position becoming free from the first displacement means while engaging the second displacement means, to be moved so that they can move from said ~~their~~ first position to said ~~their~~ second storage position.

3-10. (Cancelled).

11. (New) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein:

- the vehicle structure comprises additional slides, and
- throughout its movement, the rear roof element engages the first displacement elements and said additional slides, to move it out of the storage area and to retract into it.

12. (New) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the rear roof element is retracted into the storage area, directly and exclusively in a horizontal storage position.

13. (New) A vehicle having a front, a rear and longitudinal axis, and comprising:

- a vehicle structure having a top opening and including a passenger compartment provided with seats near the rear of the passenger compartment, and a storage area located behind said seats,

- a retractable roof adapted for closing said upper opening, the roof comprising at least two rigid parts free to move with respect to said structure, said at least two rigid parts comprising a first front part and a second rear part,

- first displacement means to which said first and second parts of the roof are connected at least during part of a movement thereof between an extended position, reached by forward displacement, in which said first and second parts are substantially in line one behind the other and cover the passenger compartment, and a folded position reached by a displacement towards the rear of the vehicle in which the first and second parts are offset from each other and are retracted behind the seats, at least one of said at least two rigid parts then being arranged in a first storage position,

- second displacement elements with which is engaged at least said rigid roof part arranged in the first storage position, for a possible displacement thereof towards a second storage position different from the first position,

- wherein the second roof part comprises a rear roof element including a rear window which extends transverse the longitudinal axis of the vehicle, said rear roof element being free to move with respect to the vehicle structure, and the first front part of the roof being arranged in front of said rear roof element when the roof is closed.

14. (New) The vehicle of claim 13, wherein the second displacement means are installed free to move with respect to the vehicle structure and with respect to the first displacement means, each of said roof part arranged in the first storage position becoming free from the first displacement means while engaging the second displacement means, to be moved from said first position to said second storage position.

15. (New) The vehicle of claim 13, wherein:

- the first and the second displacement means comprise first and second slides, respectively,

- the second slides are installed free to move on the structure with respect to the first slides, and

- to be stored, the first roof part is successively moved to the first storage position and then to the second storage position, by engaging in sequence the first slides and then the second slides.

16. (New) The vehicle of claim 13, wherein:

- the vehicle structure comprises additional slides, and

- throughout its movement, the rear roof element engages the first displacement elements and said additional slides, to move it out of the storage area and to retract into it.

17. (New) The vehicle of claim 13, wherein the rear roof element is retracted into the storage area, directly and exclusively in a horizontal storage position.

18. (New) The vehicle of claim 13, wherein:

- the first roof part comprises at least one substantially flat front roof panel which becomes free from the second displacement means in the extended position and is connected thereto during displacement between the first and second storage positions,

- the rear roof element is connected to the first displacement elements, while it moves between its extended and folded positions, and, during said movement, the rear roof element extends substantially horizontal, such that said at least one substantially flat front roof panel is free to move between:

\* its extended position, in which it covers the passenger compartment, in front of the roof rear element, and

\* its folded position in which said front panel is firstly arranged in its first storage position, and is then tilted substantially horizontal in the second storage position, and

- the roof rear element is installed free to tilt with respect to the vehicle structure, to enable the passage of said at least one substantially flat front roof panel, when said panel moves between the extended position and the first storage position.

19. (New) The vehicle according to claim 18, wherein the rear roof element is installed free to tilt with respect to each said at least one substantially flat front roof panel to enable the passage thereof under said rear roof element when said at least one substantially flat front roof panel moves from the extended position to the folded position.

20. (New) A method for storing an opening roof in a storage space of an automobile vehicle comprising a vehicle structure, the storage space being located behind seats disposed in a rear part of a passenger compartment of the vehicle, the opening roof comprising at least a first and a second rigid roof parts, said second roof part comprising a rear roof element free to move with respect to the vehicle structure, the method comprising the following steps:

a) starting from a closed state of the roof in which the first and second roof parts of the roof cover the passenger compartment while being substantially flush one behind the other, with the rear roof element behind the first roof part, above the rear part of the passenger compartment, the roof parts are offset from each other and at least the first roof part is moved towards the storage area, until it reaches a first intermediate storage position;

b) then, the first roof part is moved again to final storage position different from the first storage position;

c) and, during or after the step a), the rear roof element is moved from a top part of the passenger compartment towards the storage area, until said rear roof element is positioned above the first roof part.

21. (New) The method according to claim 20, comprising:

- defining the final storage position as a substantially horizontal position located in one of an upper part and a lower part of the roof storage area,

- providing the vehicle with a trunk, and,
- defining the roof storage area as a part of said vehicle trunk.

22. (New) The method according to claim 20, comprising:

- providing the first roof part with at least one relatively flat roof panel, and,
- arranging the rear roof element above the first roof part, while said at least one relatively flat roof panel is already positioned in said final storage position.

23. (New) The method according to claim 20, comprising, during step c), disposing the rear roof element directly in a substantially vertical position in the storage area.

24. (New) The method according to claim 20, comprising:

- providing the first roof part with at least one relatively flat roof panel,
- in the first intermediate storage position of said first roof part, arranging it substantially vertically, behind said seats of the vehicle, in front of the storage area, and,
- then tilting said first roof part upwards or downwards, towards the final storage position.